

For the sake of the future of democracy in this country, I strongly urge the Commission NOT to relax rules on ownership of multiple media outlets. Further consolidation of news sources will only further a disastrous downward spiral of current information available to citizens of the U.S. The current state of 'news' programming on the major broadcast media (particularly the major tv networks) is pathetic. It is tailored to reflect corporate and establishment interests and rarely encourages thoughtful analysis, discussion and debate of important problems and issues facing us. Genuine 'reporting' is becoming extremely rare, as broadcasters act merely as conduits of stories derived from other sources. All too often, programming decisions are clearly made based on bottom line financial gain, rather than on service to the public (the supposed owners of the airwaves!). Further media consolidation will only make this situation worse by decreasing further the diversity of available voices. Please help us to build a functioning, healthy, diverse public conversation. Rather than allowing further consolidation of broadcasting by large corporate entities, put your efforts into encouraging more public access to broadcast media, and into making the current broadcasters more accountable to their responsibilities to serve the public.